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Attorney General Biden presents \$100,000 to statewide health network in support of program to provide discounted prescription drugs to underserved Delawareans

Wilmington – Attorney General Joseph R. Biden, III today presented a \$100,000 check to Delaware Health Net that will fund the establishment of a discount pharmaceutical program through Delaware's community health centers.

In 2004 Delaware and nineteen other states reached an agreement with pharmacy benefits manager Medco Health Solutions, Inc following an investigation into alleged violations of their consumer protection laws. As a result, Medco adopted reforms to its business practices and paid more than \$29 million in restitution to affected patients and the states.

According to the terms of the settlement, Delaware agreed to provide its share of the restitution for the benefit of uninsured or underinsured residents for prescription drug benefits.

"The Delaware Department of Justice has not only acted to enforce our consumer protection laws," Attorney General Biden stated. "We're also using these funds to serve Delawareans with unmet healthcare needs."

Delaware Health Net will use the \$100,000 payment as start-up capital to establish a program that will provide low-cost medications through its member health centers. The funding will be used to hire staff, purchase equipment and software, and build initial inventories. The service will be established under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program which requires manufacturers to provide discounted pharmaceuticals to community health centers and other health care providers.

Delaware Health Net is a statewide non-profit network of community health centers. Its members include the Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, Delmarva Rural Ministries, and La Red Health Center. Delaware Health Net seeks to maintain and expand access to health care services for the medically underserved across Delaware. It serves its member health centers by facilitating collaboration, sharing expertise, building integrated systems and standards, and developing information databases. For more information visit www.delawarehealth.net.

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